

NAVAJO NATION

TRIBAL PROFILE

The Navajo Nation has more than 27,000 square miles in Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. Their government, the largest among tribal nations, has 24 council delegates representing 110 chapters.

In 1863, the U.S. Army employed “scorched earth” tactics to force the surrender of the Navajo, which led to the 300-mile forced “Long Walk” to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. An 1868 treaty allowed the Navajo to return to their original homeland, where they developed a barter economy. In the 1920s, oil and mineral exploration started, bringing wealth as well as environmental issues to the Navajo Nation and Utah.

President: Jonathan Nez

Vice President: Myron Lizer

Council Delegate (for Utah chapters): Charlaine Tso

Council Delegate (for Utah chapters): Nathaniel Brown

Council Delegate (for Utah chapters): Herman Daniels

Red Mesa Chapter President: Herman Farley

Aneth Chapter President: Wesley Jones

Teec Nos Pos Chapter President: Alfred Jim

Oljato Chapter President: James Adaki

Navajo Mountain Chapter President: Hank Stevens

Dennehotso Chapter President: Larry Tuni

Mexican Water Chapter President: Kenneth Maryboy

MAJOR ISSUES

- Students in San Juan School District struggle with graduation rates, as well as communication with teachers, principals, counselors, and the district.
- Bureaucratic hurdles make economic development challenging. Land is withdrawn and projects stalled, without coordination or guidance.
- Broadband service will be expanded in Bluff and Montezuma Creek, but tribe concerned that the Utah State Board of Education was not a funder.
- Utah Chapter House representatives want better communication from state about their reports at the Native American Summit and other discussions they have with the governor and state agencies.
- The tribe would like more information about services at USU extension in Montezuma Creek.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Graduation Rate (2017): Monument Valley H.S. (90 percent); Navajo Mountain H.S. (80 percent); Whitehorse H.S. (67 percent)
- Unemployment Rate: 85 percent (Utah side)
- Population (San Juan County): 14,000

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Major employers: Utah Navajo Health Systems; San Juan School District; Oil and gas industry

Tribal businesses: Navajo Nation enterprises include energy development, tourism, and gaming, but most of these are located out of state.

Natural resources: Oil, gas

Current economic outlook:

Recent economic impacts: (Include positive and negative)